

C<sub>1</sub> This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/144,382, filed on July 16, 1999 and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/154,563, filed on September 17, 1999, each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

On page 1, please replace the paragraph beginning "The field of this invention relates to the field" with the following paragraph:

C<sub>2</sub> The field of this invention relates to the field of detecting and reporting polynucleotide sequences, including genomic sequences, genomic transcript sequences (*e.g.*, mRNAs from cells and/or cDNA sequences derived therefrom) copy numbers and single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), by nucleic acid hybridization, *e.g.*, on nucleic acid microarrays. In particular, the invention relates to methods for identifying and/or selecting polynucleotide sequences, particularly oligonucleotide sequences, which may be used as hybridization probes (*e.g.*, on nucleic acid microarrays) that are both sensitive and specific to particular target polynucleotide sequences of interest.

IN THE CLAIMS:

A marked version of the claims showing the amendments is attached hereto as Exhibit C. Matter that has been deleted from claims 27, 33-35, 42, 48-54, 57, 67 and 71 is indicated by brackets and matter that has been added is indicated by underlining. A clean version of the pending claims, as amended, is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims ~~1, 3-26, 55-56, 69-70 and 81-83~~, without prejudice.

Amend claims 27, 33-35, 42, 48-54, 57, 67 and 71 to read as follows:

C<sub>3</sub> 27. (Twice Amended) A method for evaluating a binding property of a polynucleotide probe comprising a predetermined nucleotide sequence to a target nucleotide sequence, said method comprising comparing the amount of hybridization of polynucleotides in a first sample to the polynucleotide probe with the amount of hybridization of polynucleotides in a second sample to the polynucleotide probe, wherein:

- (a) the first sample comprises a plurality of polynucleotide molecules comprising said target nucleotide sequence; and